

REMARKS

Claims 12, 14-37, 51-57, 61-66, 68-82, and 84-86 are pending in the above-identified application. In the non-final office action dated April 20, 2006, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Allowed claims 23-37, 51-57, 62-66, 68-82, and 84-86.
- B.) Rejected claims 12 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Yahiro, et al.* in view of *Mitome, et al.*

Applicants address the Examiner's disposition below. Claims 12 and 14-22 have been canceled. Claims 23-27 have each been amended to correct informalities. Specifically, a comma was added in each claim to clarify the claim language.

- A.) Allowance of claims 23-37, 51-57, 62-66, 68-82, and 84-86:

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 23-37, 51-57, 62-66, 68-82, and 84-86.

- B.) Rejection of claims 12 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Yahiro, et al.* in view of *Mitome, et al.*:

Claims 12 and 14-22 have been canceled without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Response to April 20, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

Application No. 10/080,104

Page 23

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 6, 2006

By: Christopher P. Rauch
Christopher P. Rauch
Registration No. 45,034
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000